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**To:** Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee  
**From:** Chairman; Public Safety Working Group  
**Date:** October 30, 2009

**Authority:** *In accordance with KRS 42.738 which states "(9) The Public Safety Working Group is hereby created for the primary purpose of fostering cooperation, planning, and development of the public safety frequency spectrum as regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, including the 700 MHz public safety band. The group shall endeavor to bring about a seamless, coordinated, and integrated public safety communications network for the safe, effective, and efficient protection of life and property. The Public Safety Working Group membership and other working group memberships deemed necessary shall be appointed by the chair of the Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee."*

**Subject:** Project 25 (P-25) standards

The members of the Public Safety Working Group met on October 21, 2009 and reevaluated the benefits and issues associated with the P-25 wireless standard. After a great deal of discussion, the group unanimously voted to ask the KWIEC to officially endorse P-25 as a communications standard for all public safety agencies in the commonwealth at its next scheduled meeting in December.

This recommendation is made for the following reasons:

- The benefits of P-25 interoperability are well documented.
- All major vendors are producing P-25 equipment.
- Relaxing the standard allowed equipment purchases which have effectively led to the deployment of stovepipe systems. This has and will continue to create islands of communications. With the pending narrow-banding mandate requiring replacement of many existing systems, this will get worse if not mitigated now.
- The cost of P-25 is no longer prohibitively expensive. As recently as 18 months ago the cost of P-25 equipment was two to three times the cost of non P-25 equipment. This is no longer the case and while there is some additional cost associated with the P-25 standard, the benefit to cost ratio is easily justified.

The group further recommends that the KWIEC formally requests that all funding agencies in the state limit or eliminate their future funding of all non P-25 projects. Even though the KWIEC cannot compel local agencies to purchase P-25 equipment, the lack of funding for non P-25 projects should effectively limit further deployment of stovepipe systems. For state agencies, the KWIEC can simply make it a requirement going forward.

Derek Nesselrode  
Chairperson  
Public Safety Working Group